

Agenda Item No. 4(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

28 February 2019

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION REQUESTING A BRIDGE CROSSING FACILITY
A515 FENNY BENTLEY**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of investigations carried out following the receipt of a petition from Fenny Bentley Parish Council, requesting the consideration of a bridge crossing facility on the A515 Fenny Bentley between Ashes Lane and the B5056 junction.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 8 November 2018, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition requesting a bridge crossing facility on the A515 Fenny Bentley (Minute No. 95/18 refers). The petition contains 276 signatures and reads as follows:

“We, the undersigned, call upon Derbyshire County Council to provide a safe means for pedestrians to cross over the river bridge on the A515 at Fenny Bentley. We urge the County Council to consider the following points:

- *Carry out a survey and full assessment of the dangers to pedestrians using this bridge,*
- *Provide suitable signage to warn motorists that pedestrians may be walking on the road,*
- *Look at updating the road markings and reduce the speed limit in the area of the bridge,*
- *Consider providing traffic lights to stop south bound traffic when pedestrians are crossing the bridge,*
- *Look at providing a safe ‘pedestrian only’ bridge.”*

Officer Comment

The A515 is well served for pedestrians by footways, apart from a missing link when pedestrians have to cross the Bentley Brook Road bridge for a section of around 45 metres in total.

The bridge is used by pedestrians to link the many outdoor amenities Fenny Bentley has to offer; caravan and holiday parks, popular walking trails, and local businesses all encouraging cycling and walking. The highway infrastructure should, where practical and if costs allow, be aligned by the pedestrians' main trip origins and destinations.

The A515 is classed as a Primary Route within the road hierarchy in Derbyshire. It carries a high volume of traffic with infrequent safe gaps in the traffic for pedestrians to cross the bridge. A relatively high percentage of the traffic flow is made up of heavy goods vehicles, resulting in an unsafe and vulnerable environment for pedestrians.

The main constraint to the provision of a pedestrian facility on the existing bridge is the width of carriageway. There is not sufficient width to allow for a widened footway across the bridge while providing suitable carriageway and lane widths for traffic.

Officer's Conclusions

The concept design for an adjacent footbridge offers a feasible solution, with an estimated cost of around £100,000 to implement.

A scheme has been put forward to draft the 2019-20 capital works programme for consideration of funding for the implementation of a footbridge.

The view of officers is that, if funding is secured for the scheme, this would provide a safer and fairer balance between the interests of different modes of transport on the network and negate the threat that motorised vehicles pose currently when pedestrians are navigating Bentley Brook Bridge.

Scheme costs allow for the structure to require planning permission, while any environmental impacts could be established within the detail design.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Simon Spencer has made the following comment, *"I fully support the implementation of the footway extension over the Bentley Brook Bridge for its length on the A515, the introduction of it is well overdue. I welcome the production of the report and look forward to it being presented at Cabinet in the near future."*

(3) **Financial Considerations** The estimate for funding of £100,000 is based on preliminary design drawings and its associated costings. It is anticipated that work could commence over the summer months of 2019 or 2020, dependent on the outcome of any planning or environmental issues that might arise from concept design. The works can be met from the 2019-20 Local Transport Plan Capital Fund.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Simon Tranter, extension 38673.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

8.1 A bid for funds to construct a footbridge on the A515, Fenny Bentley be included on the list of schemes for funding consideration for the 2019-20 Capital Programme.

8.2 The lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment